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From: Tom Barksdale [mailto:tbarksdl@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, July 01, 2006 7:40 AM

To: Public Hearing

Subject: Wal-Mart Banking

Dear Ms. Bair:

Please use your new position to oppose Wal-Mart's entry into banking. There can be no doubt that a Wal-Mart bank would drive community banks out of business, like Wal-Mart has done to local grocery stores, drug stores, and hardware stores. The last thing America needs is this dangerous concentration of commercial and financial power. A Wal-Mart bank would take capital out of local communities and give Wal-Mart the power to refuse to make loans to local businesses.

Wal-Mart's true colors was shown by its false testimony at recent hearings. Wal-Mart said it had no plans to enter full-service banking, and pointed to the leases signed by banks "at the discretion of the banks alone" as evidence of its long-term plan to support independent banks. But documents seen by Reuters include a provision that requires both the bank and Wal-Mart to agree to renew. Furthermore, Wal-Mart has confirmed a current search for a senior manager to oversee "new strategic initiatives" in the mortgage business.

Wal-Mart has a history of skirting, bending and even breaking the law for the sake of their bottom line. We should not trust them with an institution that is so important to the vitality and stability of our communities.

Wal-Mart's size: Wal-Mart is quick to remind critics that another retailer, Target Stores, also holds a banking charter. A Wal-Mart bank would pose risk to the FDIC and American fiscal security due to its sheer size. Target's FY 2006 revenues were \$52 billion, only one-sixth the size of Wal-Mart's. A Wal-Mart ILC would dwarf those managed by any of the other companies that currently hold charters.

Please stand up for conservative American values of free enterprise and de-concentration of power and oppose Wal-Mart's attempt to monopolize banking.